

REMARKS

Claims 2-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4 and 5 are amended and claim 1 is canceled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 2-4 and 7-11 include allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,873,161 to Chen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,141 to Farnworth et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2-4 and 7-11 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 are now in independent form and are in condition for allowance. The claims which depend from 2 and 4 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 25, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
